

Virginia Emergency Operations Center  
Hurricane Katrina Impacts  
Situation Report #11

Operational Period 0700 Hours September 10, 2005 to 0700 Hours September 11, 2005

**SITUATION:**

Governor Mark R. Warner declared a limited state of emergency within the Commonwealth on August 31, 2005, directing the Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC) to coordinate state relief efforts in response to Hurricane Katrina. Governor Warner announced Virginia is offering to shelter a minimum of 4,000 evacuees. The Governor requested a Presidential disaster declaration on September 6, 2005 to assist with Virginia's relief effort.

Localities across the Commonwealth are receiving evacuees from Louisiana. The American Red Cross is providing assistance, such as food, clothing, and shelter, to the evacuees.

An evacuee Reception and Disaster Recovery Center is set up at Fort Pickett and ready to receive evacuees. Efforts are focused on providing one-stop shopping for sheltering, health and various government services at Fort Pickett.

Virginia continues to monitor fuel supply around the Commonwealth.

**WEATHER:**

A Hurricane watch remains in effect for the Southeast Coast of the United States from North of Edisto Beach, South Carolina northeastward to Cape Lookout, North Carolina. The hurricane watch may have to be shifted northward later today. The Governor of the State of North Carolina has declared a State of Emergency. The VEOC will continue to monitor the movements of the hurricane.

**VIRGINIA EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER STATUS:**

- The VEOC is currently in Response Operations. Will be considering going to Hurricane Condition 4 today.

**ONGOING STATE ACTIVITIES:**

- **Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) /VEOC**
  - Augmented with additional staffing from DFP, VSP, DHRM, Red Cross and DHS/FEMA.
  - Coordinating 60 open requests through Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC). Disseminating EMAC requests to the appropriate State and/or local agencies.
  - Currently supporting 3 EMAC missions in Louisiana and 2 in Mississippi:
    - Six Community Relations Reservists personnel arrived in Jackson, Mississippi.
  - Awaiting responses from requesting states to 29 proposals to respond on EMAC missions.
  - Established an Evacuee Reception Center/Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) at Fort Pickett. (Referred to as Town Pickett)
- **Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy (DMME)**
  - EPA extended the Richmond RFG waiver effective through midnight of September 23.

- No widespread fuel shortage in the state. Spot shortages continue to be reported in Richmond, Tidewater, and Northern Virginia areas.
- **Department of Forestry (DOF)**
  - Two personnel are staffing the agency's Command Center in Charlottesville and at least 1 person is assisting in each of the agency's 6 Regional offices as necessary to assist with crew deployments and support.
  - One person is assisting the State of Mississippi to prepare a pre-suppression wildfire plan to address the added wildfire danger posed by the hurricane debris.
  - Total of 64 personnel are deployed to assist with Katrina relief.
    - A 20-person crew is coordinating food and water distribution near Hammond, LA.
    - A 20-person crew is providing emergency related community assistance in the Town of Ocean Springs, MS.
    - Six 3-person chainsaw crews (18 people total) are clearing roads near Laurel, MS.
    - 5 personnel have been deployed in single resource positions on Type 1 IMT's in Meridian, MS and Baton Rouge, LA.
    - 1 person is serving as an Equipment Manager over rental/leased recovery equipment out of Houston, TX.
- **Virginia Department of Health (VDH)**
  - Virginia Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT) – 45 personnel deployed on September 10, 2005 to Biloxi, Mississippi.
  - Fielding offers of assistance for evacuee support from hospitals and long-term care facilities.
  - Assisting local health departments in providing immunizations for authorized deployers and local evacuee populations.
  - Continue to organize Public Health teams to standby for deployment.
  - Established VDH Towne Pickett Response Team with the capability for shelter health and medical support operations.
  - Two Office of Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) personnel deployed on September 9 in support of DMORT operations.
  - Local Health Districts coordinating with partner agencies in support of self-deployed and private source assisted evacuees.
  - VDH Public Information Officer deployed to Texas on September 8 in support of FEMA.
- **Virginia National Guard (VNG)**
  - As of September 9, 222<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Master Unit and 203<sup>rd</sup> Red Horse Unit are providing potable water service in the French Quarter in New Orleans.
  - 225 National Guard personnel are conducting security and relief operations in Gulfport, Mississippi under the operational control of the 38<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (EMAC).
  - Field Headquarters VA Joint Operations Center (JOC) develops future capabilities support packages and continue planning for potential future security operations.
  - 152 guardsmen and 29 airmen, mainly military police, arrived on September 5 in Alexandria, Louisiana. The guardsmen are under the operational control of the 35<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division and are now stationed at the Belle Chase Naval Air Station in Louisiana conducting security and relief operations (EMAC).
- **Virginia State Police (VSP)**

- Preparing Trooper Law Enforcement personnel for possible deployment.
- Supporting perimeter security at Fort Pickett.
  
- **Virginia Information Technology Agency (VITA)**
  - Developing an implementation plan for remaining communications needs.
  - Cell towers being installed to address spotty cellular coverage at Fort Pickett.
  
- **Department of Education (DOE)**
  - Delivered laptops to supply classrooms at Fort Pickett
  
- **Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS)**
  - Staffing and logistics is set-up for processing evacuees for service intake and benefit programs upon arrival at Fort Pickett.
  - 224 State and Local Social Services employees are in a database to serve either one-week in Virginia or two weeks in the impacted region if called upon.
  - Directing local offices to refer evacuees to local chapter of American Red Cross (ARC) and provide FEMA teleregistration number. After screening by ARC, DSS will process evacuees into appropriate program.
  - DSS provided guidelines to localities for providing assistance to evacuees
  - DSS Hotline – 1-800-777-8293 – For Faith Based Groups to offer temporary housing for evacuees. 161 organizations are in the database.
  
- **Virginia Department of Fire Programs (VDFP)**
  - Public Information Officer staffed at Fort Pickett.
  - Staffing to assist in EMAC and Legislative Affairs in VEOC as needed.
  
- **Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS)**
  - Continue to track consumer reports of alleged gasoline price gouging and half-pricing through its Hotline number: 1-800-552-9963. Citizens in the Richmond area may contact (804) 786-2042. To date 104 calls have been received relative to alleged price gouging and 20 other calls alleging miscellaneous motor fuels complaints, such as half-pricing discrepancies, failure to deliver correct amount of fuel, and signage issues.
  
- **Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (VDHCD)**
  - Tasked with matching families and available housing in the communities.
  
- **Red Cross**
  - American Red Cross has **1,762 open cases** and has assisted **3,949 individuals**. The largest concentrations of evacuees are in Hampton Roads, Richmond and Southeastern, Virginia. No shelters have been reported open in Virginia at this time.
  - Richmond Chapter reports 110 medical cases, 20-30 that were more serious. The local Health Department will follow up with the serious cases.
  
- **FEMA**
  - State Liaison Officer working out of Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC)
  - FEMA has set up a Donations Hotline at **800-440-6728**.

- 2,540 evacuees have reportedly registered with a current Virginia address through FEMA Teleregistrations. 2,135 from Louisiana, 400 from Mississippi, 5 from Alabama. In FEMA Region III, Virginia has the highest number of teleregistrations.
- **Citizen Corps**
  - Volunteers are assisting with local emergency management efforts in support of Hurricane Katrina relief efforts across the state.
  - Citizen Emergency Response Team (CERT) and Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) volunteers have been deployed through their local Red Cross chapters. These deployments include CERT Teams from Chesapeake and Virginia Beach and 14 MRCs in support of local shelter and target support operations.

#### **LOCAL ACTIONS:**

- Identifying resources for possible deployment to impact areas and to Fort Pickett
- Monitoring fuel supply
- Managing arrival of evacuees in the localities
- Six person Incident Management Team from Arlington County deployed and on site working from the New Orleans Police Department Emergency Operation Center (EMAC).
- Virginia Beach Department of Human Services opened an evacuee Assistance Center on September 7.

#### **OTHER ACTIVITIES:**

- Fort Pickett is prepared to receive evacuees sent to Virginia by FEMA. The sheltering facility is not for evacuees currently in Virginia. Disaster assistance services are available to evacuees. First and foremost, evacuees will be able to register with FEMA if they have not already done so.
- All state agencies with supporting roles have stations at Fort Pickett. Transportation arrangements for evacuees from Richmond International Airport to Fort Pickett have not been finalized. Evacuees, upon arriving at Fort Pickett will be questioned about short term and long term housing needs.
- Greater Richmond Area Red Cross and the Petersburg Chapter are set up to assist processing evacuees arriving at Ft. Pickett.
- Virginia Public Inquiry Center (VPIC) is open to answer questions and field concerns from citizens. The VPIC telephone number is **866-880-4288**, hours of operation this week – 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. 18 calls reported for September 10. A total of 573 calls reported since VPIC opened on September 2.
- The Department of Health and Human Services has established a website (<https://volunteer.hhs.gov>) and toll-free number (1-866-KAT-MEDI) to help identify private sector health care professionals and relief personnel to assist in Hurricane Katrina relief efforts.
- Virginia Wing of the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) has been tasked by 1<sup>st</sup> Air Force and FEMA to be activated for operations in the Gulf Coast area.
- Public Affairs handled numerous media inquiries on the Commonwealth's response. A Joint Information Center (JIC) has been established at Fort Pickett. Updated [www.vaemergency.com](http://www.vaemergency.com) with the latest information.
- State Council of Higher Education Virginia (SCHEV) provided a link for displaced students that offers information on colleges and universities throughout the Commonwealth accepting enrollment - <http://www.schev.edu/Students/ResponseToKatrina.asp>.

**PROJECTED FUTURE ACTIONS:**

- Support establishment and operation of evacuee Reception and Disaster Recovery Center at Fort Pickett.
- Continue to monitor fuel supply. Localities will advise VEOC of difficulties.
- Coordinate state relief efforts.
- Process EMAC requests.
- Track mission assignments to state agencies for response actions.
- Implement external communications plan.

Prepared by: Ted Costin

Authority of Michael Cline, State Coordinator

/s/ Harry Colestock, Operations Director